NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2026

GOLD $5,116.80 SILVER $117.27 ₿ BITCOIN $87,575

Last Month: GOLD $4,258.40 SILVER $58.26 ₿ BITCOIN $85,762

Join us on Facebook

NEXT MEETING FEBRUARY 5TH

Next Olympia Coin Club Meeting
Virgil S. Clarkson Senior Center
(next to the Lacey Community Center)
6757 Pacific Ave SE
Lacey, WA 98503
7:00PM - Doors open at 6:00PM

UPCOMING SHOWS AND EVENTS

FEB 7
KENT VALLEY COIN SHOW
Kent Commons
525 4th Ave. N, Kent, WA
Scott Loos, 425-463-6551, scottloos@msn.com

FEB 21
Greater Tacoma Coin Show
Holiday Inn Express, I-5 and Bridgeport Way, Tacoma, WA
David F. Schmidt
253-209-0128

For a complete list of upcoming shows visit the PNNA Calendar - (Click here)

Oliver Brock
Club President

A WORD FROM PRESIDENT OLIVER BROCK

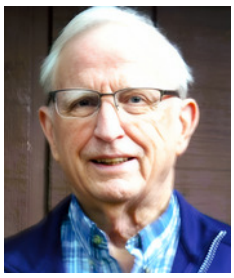
oliver.brock@comcast.net

Hi All,

Now that we are into the new year. Some might say it's been an adjustment period for new taxes on gold and silver. With some coin shows canceled or moved out of Washington State. With the Olympia Coin Show on the 31st and tables sales are good with one or none left. Thank you, Kevin Charboneau, for making that happen.
Coin Shops are doing ok some are thinking about changes others are not. I think the Olympia show will have a lot of eyes on it. It will be the test show for sure. They say Gold and Silver prices will rise more.
The market has already changed at the current prices. Where the US Mint can't set prices for the first time.
The coin market isn't bad. Just the bullion side is over the edge.

Oliver

Olympia Coin Club
Meeting Minutes
Jan. 8, 2026


Richard Green
Club Secretary

Oliver opened the meeting at 7:00 PM. He introduced new member, Cyndy Wakita. Oliver announced that the Club is looking for a member to take over the YN program. This involves bringing the YN items to the meeting and supervising their distribution. The Club is still looking for someone to take the Treasurer position. Oliver mentioned that the coin shops are seeing more buying of gold and silver.

Treasurer's Report
Terri reported that as of the end of Dec. the Club had $6,359 on hand. Last year, the Club made $1,600 through the Coin Show, donations, and dues. Terri also thanked Jay for the great work on the Newsletter (way to go Jay).

Club Show and Sale
Kevin reported that raffle tickets are available. Only 625 of the 2,500 raffle tickets have been sold so far. All the tables have been sold. Kevin is arranging for rental of the tables. Help is needed to set up and tear down. Set up will begin at 7:00 AM.

Coin Shows and Sales Tax
The Boeing Coin Show has been cancelled over concern for the new sales tax on gold and silver sales. The PNNA Show will be moved to Portland. Oliver wrote a letter to the Washington State Governor explaining how the tax would impact the Club.

Board Meeting
A Club Board meeting will be held on Jan. 22, 2026 at The Rivers Edge Restaurant.

Raffle Ticket Winners
1972 Proof Dollar – Scott Callendar
UK Proof 20 Pence Coin – Mary Craig
2012 Mint Coin Set – Oliver Brock
Membership Prize
10 Coin Club Raffle Tickets – Ray Gluth
Young Numismatist Prize
Clad Commemorative Half Dollar – Sally

Rich Green, Secretary

COMING FROM THE US MINT

Feb 5

COMING SOON LIMITED

Semiquincentennial Quarters 2026 Rolls and Bags - Mayflower Compact

SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL COINS AND MEDALS

MULTI (D)(P)

26SQBA 26SQBB 26SQRA

Feb 6

COMING SOON LIMITED

Charters of Freedom 2026 Platinum Proof Coin - Declaration of Independence

AMERICAN EAGLE COINS

WEST POINT (W)

26EJ

Feb 11

COMING SOON

Woodrow Wilson Presidential Silver Medal

S828

COMING SOON LIMITED

Best of the Mint 1916 Mercury Dime Gold Coin and Silver Medal Set

SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL COINS AND MEDALS

MULTI (P)(W)

26BM1

For more information and releases visit USMint.gov

100 Years Ago in Coins: A Look Back Through The Numismatist

Here's a look back 100 years at a couple of articles from the February 1926 issue of The Numismatist.

THE NUMISMATIST

An Illustrated Monthly for Those Interested in Coins, Medals and Paper Money.

VOL. XXXIX. FEBRUARY, 1926 No. 2

A Hoard of Eighty Byzantine Gold Coins.

By JOHN M. WULFING,
President of the St. Louis Numismatic Society.

(A paper presented at the annual meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America, at Cornell, N. Y., December 30, 1925.)

If I venture as a layman to address a group of college professors, doctors of philosophy and masters of art, on an important branch of archaeology, my only justification is that in the fifteen or twenty years that I have been a member of the Archaeological Institute I have never heard a paper read on the subject by one of the learned university gentlemen, nor have I seen an article thereon in the Journal of Archaeology. It has always been surprising to me that the classical departments of our universities have given so little attention to the science of numismatics, as coins are the best preserved and most abundant contemporary documents of ancient civilization. When denarii, Republican and Imperial, can be had for twenty-five cents a piece, I see no reason why every teacher of Latin in the high schools and universities should not own a small collection for use in his classroom. There are many thousand coin collectors in the United States, but ninety per cent. of these are interested only in Americana. If our boys and girls at school and college were shown the importance and beauty of ancient coins, this proportion might be greatly changed. All of you are no doubt familiar with the artistic beauty of the Greek coinage, and with the wonderful line of portraits on the Roman Imperial coins, but there is one important feature which some of you may not have thought of. The old Romans, having no daily press to muzzle, subsidize or purchase, made use of the wide circulation of the denarius to influence public opinion. For an early example, I would refer you to the coins of the Social Wars, 90-86 B. C, or to the coins struck by Caesar from 60 to 44 B. C., and the coins of Brutus in 42 B. C. In Imperial times, when the denarius circulated from the Thames to the Euphrates, and from the Rhine to the Sahara, this method of disseminating news assumed momentous proportions. While our laws prescribe a new design for our coins every twenty-five years, Hadrian in the twenty-one years of his reign issued over nineteen hundred varieties, not counting those of cities of Asia Minor and other provinces. This would make almost one hundred per year, or two a week—a regular semi-weekly bulletin. In this way even the citizens in far distant parts of the Empire were informed of his wars, his travels and his many understakings and accomplishments. Hadrian was no exception. Trajan, Antoninus, Marcus Aurelius and many other Emperors were equally as active in this news service. The denarius may, therefore, certainly be called a contemporary historical document, worthy of much attention and study.

The Byzantine coinage was neither as beautiful as the Greek nor as important as the Roman. Whereas the Greeks idealized their heroes and the Romans stressed the portraits of their rulers, the Byzantines emphasized the gorgeousness of the Imperial robes and jewelry, neglecting personal looks of the Emperors entirely. They deserve one credit, however, and this was of great practical importance. For six or seven centuries the standard of the gold coinage was rigidly mantained, both as to weight and fineness. To this is due the wide circulation and popularity of the solidus or bezant in countries outside of the empire, especially in Western Europe.

Last January a friend of mine in Athens wrote that he had purchased for me a hoard of eighty Byzantine gold coins, all of the Emperor Manuel I, of

100 Years Ago in Coins: A Look Back Through The Numismatist Continued

the Comnenan dynasty. This was one of the most remarkable dynasties of the Byzantine Empire, unique in having a succession of father, son and grandson, all strong men, ruling for a period of one hundred years, without any intervening regency, Manuel reigning thirty-seven years, from 1143 to 1181. As the British Museum catalogue lists three types of gold coins, and five more of electron (a pale gold), I expected that all of these types, and possibly others, would be represented in so large a hoard. I was, therefore, much disappointed at first when I found the coins were all of one type, No. 1 of the British Museum catalogue; but when I began to study the hoard in detail I soon discovered that there was an endless number of variations; only in a few instances were two coins apparently struck from the same dies. Another astonishing feature was the fact that not a single specimen was holed; usually twenty per cent. and over of Byzantine gold coins are so pierced. This and the mint state of almost all specimens would indicate that the coins had been in circulation only a very short time—a most remarkable fact considering the number of varieties of the dies. Unfortunately, I was unable to obtain any details as to the provenance and the attending circumstances except that the hoard was reported to have been found in Northwestern Asia Minor.

As stated before, all the coins of the hoard belong to type 1 of the British Museum catalogue, which gives the following description:

Obv., Inscr., Manuel, bearded, standing facing, holding in r. labarum, in l., globus, with patriarchal cross; wears crown with cross, long tunic enveloped in mantle; above, in field, r., Manus Dei crowning him. Two borders of dots.

Rev., KEBOETHEI. Bust of Christ, beardless, facing; in l., volumen, r.

B-19—Obv. 28mm. 2.85 gr.

B-21—Obv. 26mm. 2.65 gr.

C-2—Obv. 25-26mm. 3.35 gr.

A-18—Obv. 26-28mm. 2.85 gr.

100 Years Ago in Coins: A Look Back Through The Numismatist Continued

B-22—Obv. and Rev. 25mm. 2.90 gr.

C-23—Obv. and Rev. 25mm. 2.95 gr.

hand in benediction; wears tunic, mantle and nimbus, cr., with 5 pellets in cross. In field, two borders of dots.

Our coins, while agreeing with above description as a whole, show some variations. On the obverse the crown is sometimes with the pellets (cross) and on the reverse of a number of coins the letters K E have a bar above, indicating the elision of the letters V R I; on others the cross of the nimbus has only one pellet in place of five. Furthermore, the bust should more accurately be described as a Christ Child; the term beardless might indicate a youth, whereas the bust is rather that of an infant on some of the coins. There are a great many variations in the decorations of the Imperial robes and insignia. The pendants of the crown which hang down on each side of the face are usually straight, with three globular dots—like a cross—at the bottom; others end in two dots or pellets, one above the other. On a few the pendant, in place of hanging down in a single straight line, seems to consist of two strands on each side, the outer one bulging in the middle. The front of the crown is decorated with from five to ten jewels, usually round, but in some cases there is a square jewel in the center, with three or more round ones on each side.

The labarum has a square field with a dot on the outside of each corner and one above the top side. Occasionally the sides are concave or convex, and on a few coins the square is so small as to be almost invisible, and there are two dots at the corners, which gives the labarum the appearance of an X.

The Imperial mantle itself and its decorations show so many little variations that it would take too long to enumerate them all—the collar, the sleeves, the folds of the mantle are not exactly alike on but very few coins; the collar is indicated by one curved line above and one below—the space filled with jewels; sometimes there is one line above and two below, and on a few there are double lines above and below. The jewels on the collars number from three to eight; when three, these are either all round or one

round in the middle and a square one on each side, or a square one in the middle and a round one on each side. The mantle has a border filled with jewels, on side and bottom; in the left, the side border meets the bottom one in an acute or obtuse angle or a rounded curve; on the front there is a semi-circular decoration of one or two lines, with a dot in the space so formed; sometimes the space between the parallel lines is filled with jewels also. In the field below this decoration there is sometimes a jewel—round, square or triangular—sometimes a scroll like an S. The part of the mantle hanging over the left arm is of various shapes and variously decorated, as is the tunic, which reaches down to the feet.

The most interesting feature of the coins is the epigraphy. The name of the Emperor appears on the left of the standing figure in three lines, one syllable below the other, or in two lines, the first syllable above and the last two in one line below. The middle vowel is written either O V or as a U with a bar in the middle, or like an inverted bow knot. This variation seems to be intentional and not due to limited space, as is the omission of one or more letters; hence I have classified the coins in three main series according to the diphthong. There are eighteen specimens of the first series, twenty-nine in the second series, and thirty-one in the third. Below the name of the Emperor is the title DESPOTE, of which the last letter is frequently omitted on account of lack of space.

At the head of the inscription on the right is the definite article "the", which is written either TO in ligature, or TO, or T, or O. The last appears only on one specimen. As this variation seems likewise to be deliberate and not due to want of space, except in possibly one or two instances, I have subdivided the larger series into four classes according to this variation. Of the first series, seventeen coins have the TO in ligature; on only one is the TO written horizontally. In the second series, nine have the ligature form, sixteen the horizontal and four the vertical, and one O. In the third, thirteen have the ligature, eight the horizontal and nine the vertical lettering. Below the definite article is the title PORPHYROGENNETO. In only a few instances, however, is this title given in full. In most cases one or more letters, and sometimes an entire syllable, is omitted for lack of space. Furthermore, the inscription is arranged in an infinite variety of ways, as can be seen from the illustration of the coins on the plate.

The reverse shows but few variations. As mentioned before, the KE sometimes has a bar above. The appeal BOETHEI appears for the first time under Romanus I, in 927, but the B is given as b; the use of the R form for B dates from the time of John I, 963-969, but after Andronicus II, in 1295, the form reverts back to the old B. The letters on the reverse differ much in size. On some coins they are small and neat, while on others they appear coarse and much larger.

Weights and Measurements.

This is the most unsatisfactory and disappointing feature of the hoard. Of the eighteen coins of series A, the lightest weighs 2.60 grams, and the heaviest 3.65, with an average of 3.15 for all the specimens. The twenty-nine of series B weigh from 2.45 to 3.50, average 3.13. Thirty-one in class C weigh from 2.90 to 3.55, with an average of 3.22. The British Museum catalogue lists fourteen gold coins with an average of 4.22. Of the preceding reign, forty-two are listed with an average of 4.31, and of the succeeding reign, the average is 4.35. It is, therefore, evident that the dealer in Athens increased his profit by clipping approximately one gram from each coin. This is also indicated by the size, which averages one-tenth of an inch less than the measurements in the British Museum catalogue. The margin on these concave coins being very large, the clipping can be done without touching the design on either side, and is, therefore, a great temptation to the middleman.

The reverses of very many coins are double struck, due probably to the slipping of the coin in the die. Only very few of the obverses show any trace of this double striking. On the other hand, part of the inscription is more often obscure or obliterated on the obverse than on the reverse. This brings up the much-mooted question, Why was this peculiar concave form adopted for coins? The first instance is a bronze of Basil I (867-886), and is the only specimen of this type known until the reign of Basil II, 976-1025. From this time on, both flat and concave coins were struck in all metals, and from Alexius I all gold coins were struck concave. Someone has

100 Years Ago in Coins: A Look Back Through The Numismatist Continued

suggested that the concave shape was adopted to protect the portrait on the obverse; but if so, it seems strange that the Emperor should always be shown on the protected obverse, while Jesus, Mary and the Saints are given the reverse or exposed side. When both flat and concave coins were struck, the latter were five to ten per cent. heavier than the former. Wroth, therefore, suggests that the concave form was adopted to distinguish the heavier

B-7—Obv. and Rev. 25mm. 3.25 gr.

B-22—Obv. and Rev. 25mm. 2.90 gr.

C-9—Obv. and Rev. 27mm. 3.35 gr.

C-10—Obv. and Rev. 27-29mm. 3.20 gr.

C-23—Obv. and Rev. 25mm. 2.95 gr.

100 Years Ago in Coins: A Look Back Through The Numismatist Continued

B-19—Obv.
28mm. 2.85 gr.

B-21—Obv.
26mm. 2.65 gr.

27-28mm. 3.05 gr.
B-27—Obv.

A-18—Obv.
27-28mm. 2.85 gr.

C-21—Obv.
24mm. 3.15 gr.

coin from the lighter; but if so, why was it continued after the light coin was no longer issued? It seems to me that a more plausible reason may have been that the small thick type, from seven-tenths to nine-tenths of an inch in diameter, was found undesirable, just as our gold one-dollar coin was never popular on account of its small size. On the other hand, the larger, flat type, one and one-tenth to one and two-tenths of an inch in diameter, may have been found to be too thin to resist the wear and tear of circulation, as it would be easily bent or broken. By adopting the concave form, the coin was given much greater strength and rigidity. But someone will ask, Why did the mint not return to the solidus of Constantine the Great, which did such excellent service for centuries and was intermediate in size between the little, thick coins and the large, spread coins. To this I can only reply by asking why do our ladies now wear a hat five or six inches in diameter, while twenty years ago they wore the Merry Widow hat, two or three feet in diameter? After the large, spread, thin coin (it was flat at first) was introduced and became fashionable, the mint authorities apparently preferred to find a way of strengthening the large coin; hence the concave nomisma was introduced.

I have a list giving the inscription as well as the weight and measurement of each coin, and the photographs of many of them, but it would unduly lengthen this paper to include these at the present time. Should anyone be interested, I shall be very glad to furnish this list and any other information desired.

Note—As Greek type is not available, English letters are used, O for Omega, TH for Theta, E for Eta. The enlarged illustrations are added to show the inscriptions and other details.

Keep the Club Running - OCC Needs a Treasurer

Olympia Coin Club needs a Treasurer to keep the club running. Are you interested?

Treasurer Duties:

- Collect Payments – Receive membership dues and bid board sales (from Rick Schultz).
- Auction Transactions – Receive payments for auctions and make change (assistants may handle this).
- Manage Club Finances – Oversee the checkbook and cash box.
- Pay any bills or invoices
- Record keeping – Maintain transaction records and send them to Terri for the Treasurer's Report (or create the report yourself if preferred).
- Financial Reporting – Provide a financial update to officers and directors.
- Annual Coin Show – Collect funds from ticket and table sales, track income and expenses, and provide a cash box for the event.

Assistant Treasurer Duties:

(We can have multiple assistants, so don't hesitate to jump in!)

- Auction Management – Track auction sales - yellow auction sheets.
- Raffle Coordination – Sell raffle tickets for 3–4 prizes during the meeting.
- Announce Winners – Announce the raffle and membership prize winners.
- Transaction Handling – Receive auction payments and provide change.
- Seller Settlements – Finalize auction sellers' lots, charge any applicable fees, and pay the seller.

Chasing a Ghost Trade Token Through Time

I attended the TAMS show in downtown Olympia on December 13th. While I was there, I ran into Henry Morales, and before long we were deep in conversation about trade tokens. A newer entry in the Token Catalog had caught our attention — an Olympia-listed token with the obverse reading "Berets & Bordeaux" and the reverse "Good for 5c in trade."

The listing was uploaded (with the owner's permission) by the user IdahoTokens, along with this note:

"TC-705177 Image courtesy of Dave Secrist. Metal detected Puget Sound area of WA Mar 2025; The ampersand is probably an error. Paul Berets was born in France, lived for a while in Bordeaux, Thurston County, WA and operated the Bordeaux Pool Hall in Olympia around 1926."

Henry and I started talking about the Bordeaux Pool Hall and whether this new token was truly an Olympia token, as the catalog entry suggested. Henry never believed the token was from Olympia.

The Bordeaux Pool Hall itself was located in Bordeaux, Washington, and was operated by Paul George Berets. He appears as the proprietor in several articles from The Olympian, which I've included later in this article. Paul and his wife Esther did live in Olympia for a time, in the Wildwood Park neighborhood. If you know Thurston County, you know it loves naming its areas — South Bay, Chambers Prairie, and so on. After some digging, I found that Wildwood Park was just south of the State Capitol on Capitol Way, roughly in the area of Vic's Pizzeria (formerly Tasha Nicole Desserts) and near O'Ferrel Street.

So it was possible that this token could have originated in Olympia, since the Berets family were the only Berets living in the city at the time. But that raised the next question: If the token reads "Berets & Bordeaux," which Bordeaux was he partnered with — and where exactly was this business located?

A little backstory: I've been collecting Olympia and Thurston County trade tokens for quite a while, so this piece immediately grabbed my attention. The more I looked into it, the deeper I fell into the world of Paul Berets and the Bordeaux Pool Hall.

Where do you even begin researching a token like this? The "Berets" on the piece is almost certainly Paul George Berets, so that's where I started. Paul was born in St. Briac, France, and immigrated to the United States aboard the SV Maréchal de Noailles out of Antwerp, Belgium.

Chasing a Ghost Trade Token Through Time

Continued

During this research process, I reached out to the granddaughter of Paul Berets. She shared a family story that added an unexpected twist: according to their oral history, eighteen-year-old Paul had stowed away on the ship that brought him to America. When he was discovered, he feared the captain might harm him for being a stowaway, so he supposedly jumped overboard.

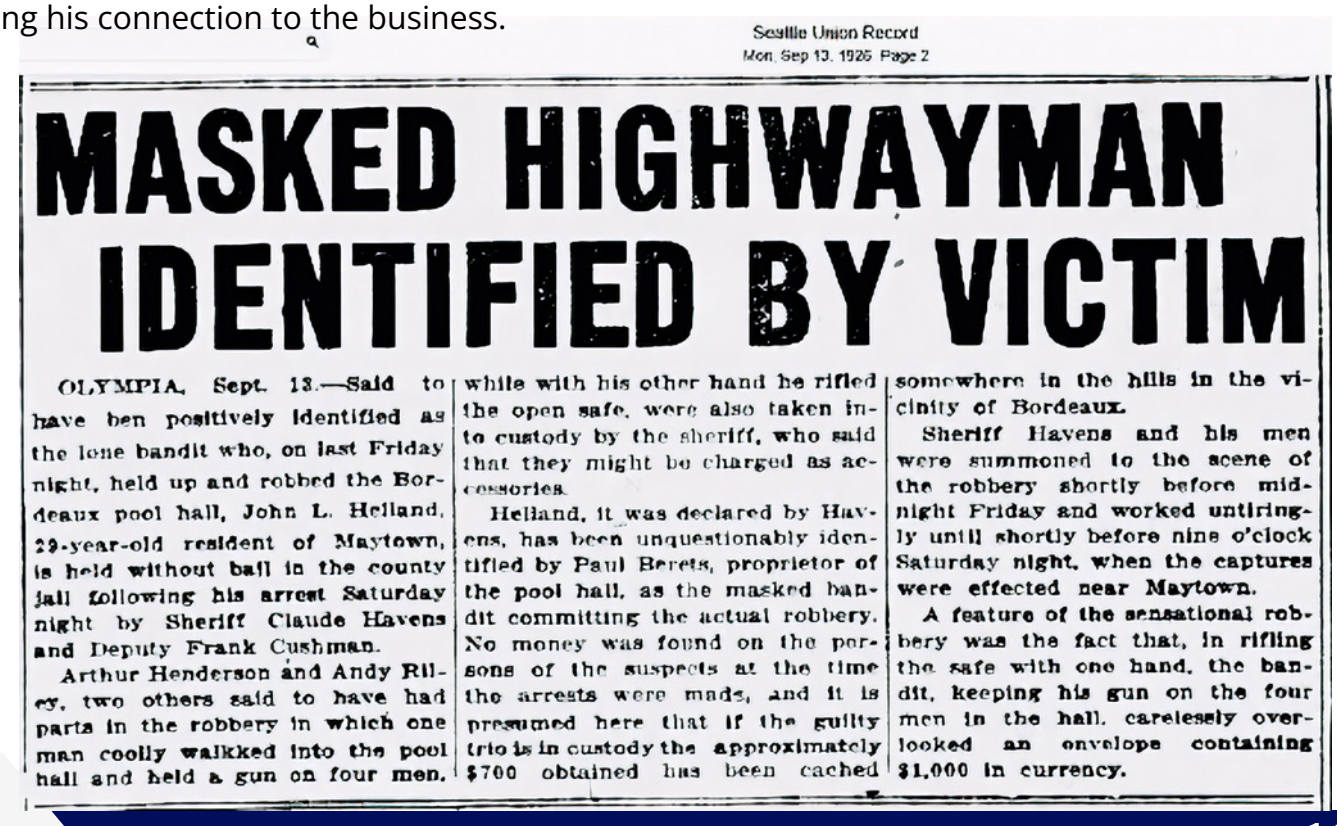
His Declaration of Intention, however, simply lists his arrival as January 22, 1910, at the Port of Seattle. So if the overboard incident happened at all, we don't know where along the journey it took place. His listed occupation at the time was Barber.

To keep track of the names and relationships I was encountering in various documents and newspaper articles, I built a small family tree for Paul George Berets. It helped me keep the threads straight as the story grew more complicated.

At this point, I needed a break. My usual research avenues were coming up empty, so I shifted focus and decided to track down the token itself — and its owner. I eventually found him on Facebook and sent a message. Since the token had been added to TokenCatalog about eight months earlier, I had no idea whether he still had it. I asked if he still owned the piece and whether he might be willing to sell.

He replied that he was away for work but would get back to me. I mentioned that I carve hobo nickels and would be happy to include one in the deal. Long story short, we struck an agreement, and on Christmas Day we met in a parking lot in Lakewood, Washington to make the exchange. He told me he never sells tokens, but he could see how passionate I was about this one and felt it belonged in a collection rather than sitting with his other metal-detector finds. I was genuinely grateful.

With the token finally in hand, I returned to the pursuit of Paul Berets. One key piece of evidence came from a 1926 article in the Seattle Union Record describing an armed robbery at the Bordeaux Pool Hall just before closing time. The article explicitly listed Paul Berets as the proprietor, confirming his connection to the business.



Seattle Union Record
Mon, Sep 13, 1926 Page 2

MASKED HIGHWAYMAN IDENTIFIED BY VICTIM

OLYMPIA, Sept. 13.—Said to have ben positively identified as the lone bandit who, on last Friday night, held up and robbed the Bordeaux pool hall, John L. Helland, 29-year-old resident of Maytown, is held without bail in the county jail following his arrest Saturday night by Sheriff Claude Havens and Deputy Frank Cushman.

Arthur Henderson and Andy Riley, two others said to have had parts in the robbery in which one man coolly walkked into the pool hall and held a gun on four men, while with his other hand he rifled the open safe, were also taken into custody by the sheriff, who said that they might be charged as accessories.

Helland, it was declared by Havens, has been unquestionably identified by Paul Berets, proprietor of the pool hall, as the masked bandit committing the actual robbery. No money was found on the persons of the suspects at the time the arrests were mads, and it is presumed here that if the guilty trio is in custody the approximately $700 obtained has been cached somewhere in the hills in the vicinity of Bordeaux.

Sheriff Havens and his men were summoned to the scene of the robbery shortly before midnight Friday and worked untiringly until shortly before nine o'clock Saturday night, when the captures were effected near Maytown.

A feature of the sensational robbery was the fact that, in rifling the safe with one hand, the bandit, keeping his gun on the four men in the hall, carelessly overlooked an envelope containing $1,000 in currency.

With this information in hand, I kept digging and uncovered yet another robbery connected to the Bordeaux Pool Hall. In 1927, the Bordeaux Post Office was robbed, and a mail sack was stolen containing the funds needed to cover payroll checks for the mill and camp workers — money that was supposed to be paid out at the Bordeaux Pool Hall.

ROBBERS GET ABOUT $4000 LOOT DURING FRIDAY NIGHT

Morning Olympian
Tues. Aug 16, 1927

Spokane Inspector Arrives to Take Charge; Burglar Said to Have Used Key in Entrance

MAIL SACK IS TAKEN

BORDEAUX, Aug. 15—(Special)—Theft of a sack of first class mail, estimated to have contained about $4,000, from the Bordeaux post office last Friday night or Saturday morning became known here Monday with the arrival of Postal Inspector Case of Spokane, who launched an investigation into the case. The exact extent of the loss is not definitely known, according to F. H. Morris, postmaster.

The sack containing the money was placed in the post office, which is a portion of the main office of the Mason County Logging company, shortly after 8:00 p. m. Friday, and was removed some time before Mrs. H. R. Hueson, the postmaster's assistant, opened the office at 7:20 a. m. Saturday morning. It is unofficially stated that the sack contained $2,000 in currency, being sent by the Bank of Shelton to the Bordeaux pool hall to meet the checks of mill and camp

(Continued on page six)

BORDEAUX P. O. ROBBED OF $4,000

(Continued from page one)

workers who were paid off on Saturday, along with about an equal amount in checks, chiefly in large denominations.

According to Morris the robber or robbers must have used a key in entering the post office, since there were no evidences of a violent entry and no part of the office was marred in any way. It is assumed by those intimate with the situation of the post office that the thief simply made his entrance, picked up the mail sack and left immediately. The office was not disturbed and nearly $200 left in the cash drawer was untouched. The door by which the entrance was made was still unlocked on Saturday morning, it is declared.

The night watchmen for the mill do not enter the store or post office while making their rounds and no one was sighted around the building in the eleven hour interval that elapsed following the locking of the office and prior to its opening Saturday morning.

No clue to the identity of the robber had been definitely unearthed during the late afternoon. Inspector Case, however, is making a thorough investigation and it is believed that at lease one detective is now working on the case.

POST OFFICE THEFT FOUND "INSIDE JOB"

Postal Inspector Reports Finding of Bordeaux Office Key

BORDEAUX, Aug. 16.—(Special)—Finding of a key to the post office on the railroad track a short ways from the office today, was the latest development in the mail robbery here in which some $4,000 was taken, it was stated by authorities. That the theft was an "inside job" was apparent to Post Office Inspector Case, who arrived from Spokane, yesterday to take up the case, he stated.

Several persons are under surveillance by the authorities, but further information was not divulged today. It was stated that but three persons knew that $2,000 from the Bank of

(Continued on page six)

Morning Olympian
Wed Aug 17, 1927

POST OFFICE THEFT FOUND 'INSIDE JOB'

(Continued from page one)

Shelton to the Bordeaux pool hall was in the post office at the time. It was part of the loot taken.

The post office was entered some time Friday night or Saturday morning but the theft was not discovered until Mrs. H. R. Hueson, assistant postmaster, opened the office about 7:20 Saturday morning.

Property of MSCUA, University of Washington Libraries. Photo Coll 516

Bordeaux Train with smoke stack in the distance. (UW Photo Collection 516)

Morning Olympian
Aug 30, 1927

STOLEN MAIL BAG FOUND

Sack Taken From Bordeaux Post Office Is Recovered

BORDEAUX, Aug. 29.—(Special)—The mail sack which was stolen from the local post office two weeks ago Sunday was found lying in the brush about 100 yards below the office, on Saturday, by Ed Scott, a worker on the steam shovel crew. The bag had been slashed but most of the contents were intact, only the cash in it having been touched. Checks totaling several hunred dollars were not touched.

The contents of the bag were damp but not wet, and indications were that it had been thrown from a point on the railroad track to the place where it was found, immediately after the robbery had been carried out.

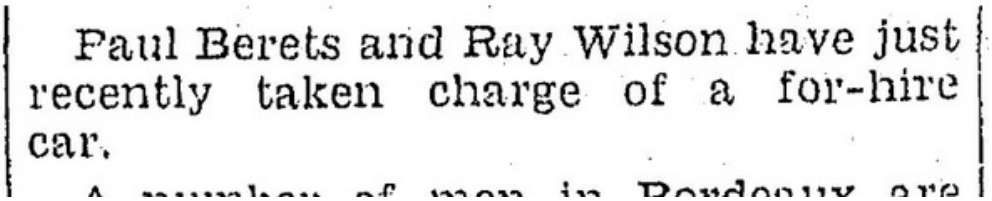
Chasing a Ghost Trade Token Through Time

Continued

With all this information, it was obvious that Paul Berets was indeed the proprietor of the Bordeaux Pool Hall throughout the mid-1920s. But one major question remained unanswered: who was the "Bordeaux" in "Berets & Bordeaux," and where exactly was this joint business located?

I did come across a brief note from 1929 mentioning that Paul and a man named Ray Wilson had recently taken charge of a for-hire car service, but that didn't shed any light on the mysterious partnership behind the token.

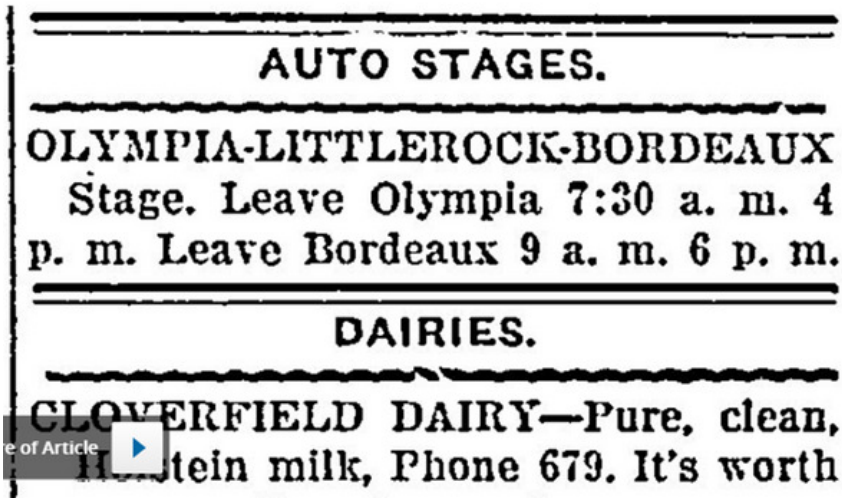
Morning Olympian - Oct. 10, 1929



Paul Berets and Ray Wilson have just recently taken charge of a for-hire car.

I wasn't sure whether this for-hire car operation replaced the earlier Auto Stage service that had been running since 1916 between Olympia, Littlerock, and Bordeaux or it was just a taxi service for the area.

Morning Olympian
May 28, 1916



AUTO STAGES.

OLYMPIA-LITTLEROCK-BORDEAUX Stage. Leave Olympia 7:30 a. m. 4 p. m. Leave Bordeaux 9 a. m. 6 p. m.

DAIRIES.

CLOVERFIELD DAIRY—Pure, clean, [illegible]tein milk, Phone 679. It's worth

Paul was certainly an entrepreneur, as the articles made increasingly clear. I also found a later piece noting that he had purchased The Oxford, a well-known saloon in downtown Olympia that would eventually become The Spar. When Paul acquired it, Washington was still under prohibition, so the business was officially listed on the Sanborn maps as selling "soft drinks."

When I spoke with Paul's granddaughter, she told me the family had been unaware of most of his business ventures. Both Paul and her father, Franklin Berets, were described as very private men, and the family only knew that Paul had worked as a barber and later owned a bowling alley in Shelton before retiring. She and her aunt were genuinely surprised to learn how active he had been in Olympia's business scene.

One particularly interesting detail is that The Oxford once housed both a bowling alley and a barber shop. The bowling alley had been removed just a year before Paul purchased the business — a coincidence that adds another layer of intrigue to his story.

Daily Olympian
Nov 25, 1930

OLD BUSINESS FIRM IS SOLD HERE

Sale of The Oxford, one of the old landmarks among Olympia business houses, to Paul Berets, former Bordeaux merchant, was announced Monday by Robert and Tom Taylor, owners of the establishment. The consideration was not given.

The Oxford was opened by Tom Taylor and his brother, the late George Taylor, in 1903. For years they operated the business as a saloon and card room. When state prohibition came in 1915 The Oxford was converted into a soft drink establishment. A year later bowling alleys were added and a new business built up. The alleys

(Continued on page six)

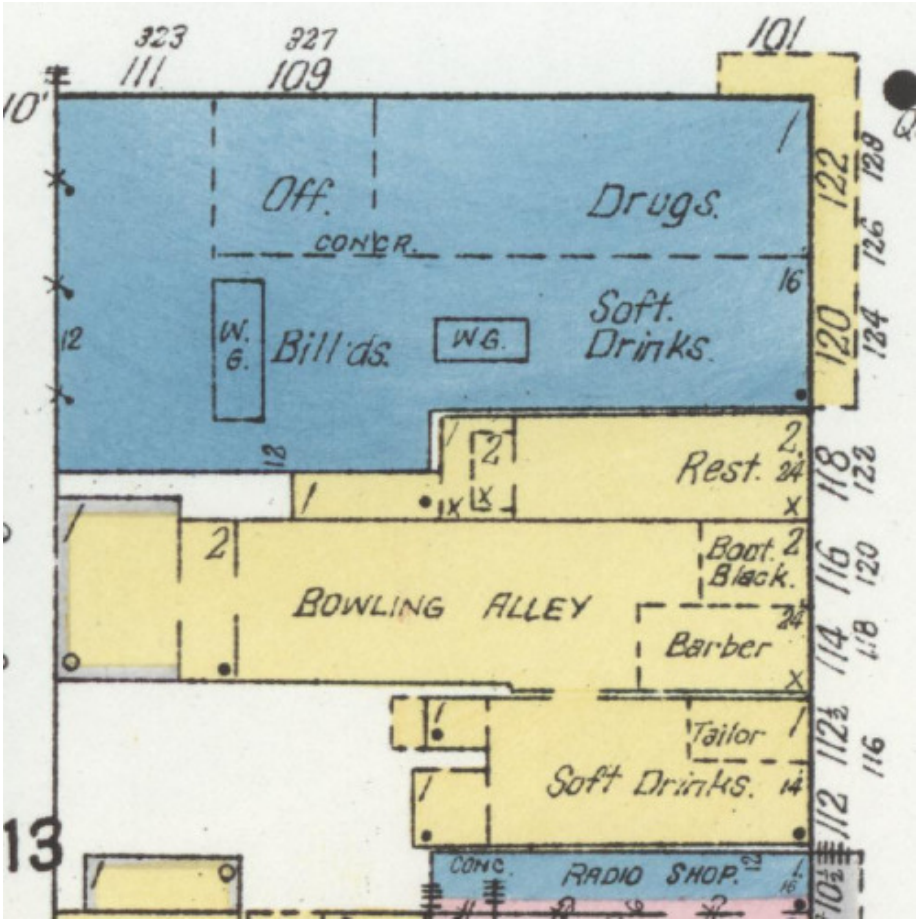
OLD BUSINESS FIRM CHANGES HANDS HERE

(Continued from page one)

remained in The Oxford until 1929 when they were sold to Joe Wilkins. In recent years George and Tom Taylor were assisted by Robert Taylor who joined them as a partner in the enterprise.

The transaction revealed Monday included only the business itself, Tom Taylor said. The building remains a possession of the Taylor brothers, under lease to Berets. It was understood that both Robert and Tom Taylor are retiring from active business.

Berets, who now lives at Wildwood, is well known to many Olympia residents. He operated an establishment similar to the one he has purchased for eight years at Bordeaux and came in contact with many people of the county during that period. He will continue to operate The Oxford along the lines it has followed in the past, he indicated Monday.

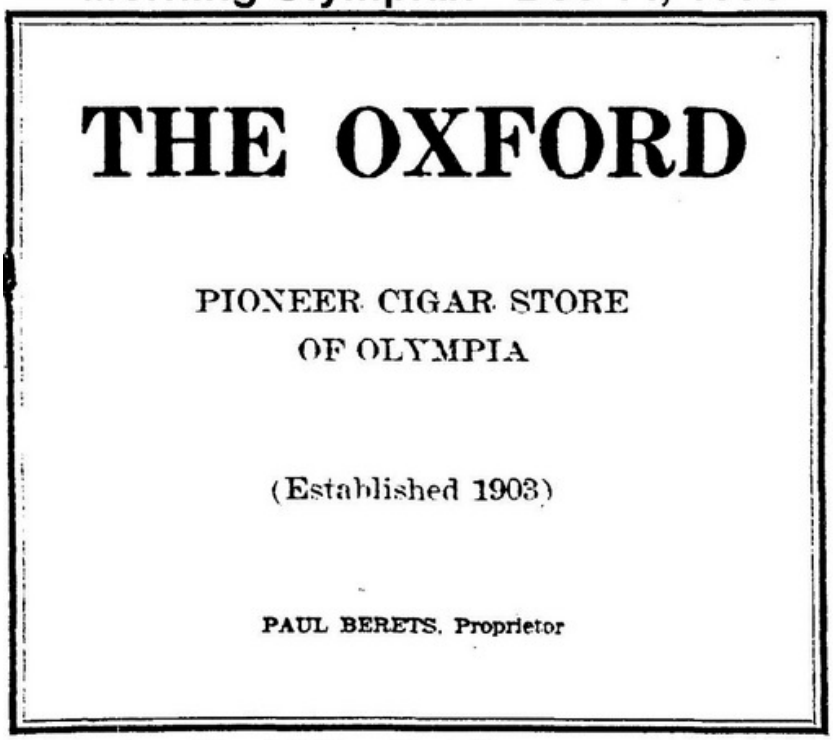


The 1924 Sanborn Fire Map shows The Oxford located at 114 4th Avenue East. The map clearly labels a bowling alley, a barber shop (notable since Paul's listed profession was barber), and even a bootblack stand directly across from the barber's chair. It's easy to see why The Oxford would have appealed to Paul.

The map also reflects the impact of prohibition: although The Oxford had previously been listed as a saloon, its adjoining room is now marked simply as "Soft Drinks."

Note: In 1932, two years after Paul Berets bought The Oxford business, prohibition was repealed in Washington state.

Morning Olympian - Dec 14, 1930



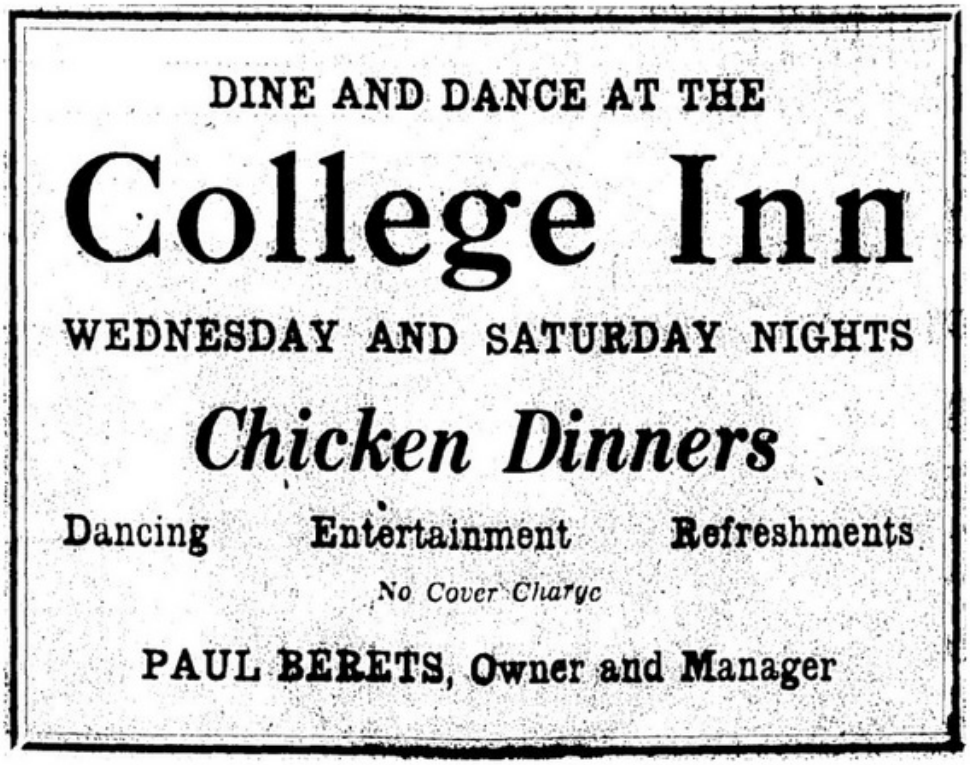
THE OXFORD

PIONEER CIGAR STORE
OF OLYMPIA

(Established 1903)

PAUL BERETS, Proprietor

The Daily Olympian April 24, 1935



DINE AND DANCE AT THE

College Inn

WEDNESDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHTS

Chicken Dinners

Dancing Entertainment Refreshments

No Cover Charge

PAUL BERETS, Owner and Manager

In 1935 Paul Berets opened "The College Inn" which is listed as Pacific Hwy 3 ½ miles East of Olympia. A later ad states "Next to St. Martin's".

Daily Olympian
April 16, 1935

PAUL BERETS TO OPEN NEW INN

A long-cherished ambition of Paul Berets of Olympia, widely known for his abilities as a caterer, for a modern eating place where friends may entertain, and be entertained; where banquets and assemblies may be held, is to be realized Wednesday evening with the formal opening at 8 o'clock of the College Inn, three and a half miles east of the city on the Pacific highway.

While the name of College Inn hasn't been changed, former patrons will hardly recognize the place since Paul and his decorators have finished their work. Complete new lighting, cooking and refrigeration systems have been installed, and new equipment in dancing, dining and banquet rooms is in place. Berets says the new College Inn will have accommodations for 110 persons, and will specialize in serving chicken dinners and steaks, and will have all other regular foods, including sandwiches, on its menu.

Attractively designed cedar paneling has completely changed the appearance of the dining room into which the main entrance opens. New chairs and tables have been installed, along with a bar at the extreme northerly end.

On each side of the 30 by 30-foot dance floor booths have been installed, each capable of accommodating four persons at its table. At the end of the room a stage has been built for the orchestra and on which will also be placed two tables for patrons. Individual lights have been built into the booths.

Assisting Caterer Berets in the conduct of the inn will be Mae Wells, who will act as hostess and will supervise the service to patrons.

An orchestra will hold sway on opening night and each night the remainder of the week, Berets announced.

Plenty of well-lighted parking space for customers' cars will be made available at the inn.

Chasing a Ghost Trade Token Through Time

Continued

Despite all this great information about Paul Berets' business life, none of it actually helped me determine where the "Berets & Bordeaux" business was located. I started digging into every name and place mentioned in the articles connected to Paul. Each lead opened another rabbit hole—interesting details about Paul and his family, but nothing that pointed to the business I was trying to track down. I even attempted to contact members of the Bordeaux family, but never received a reply.

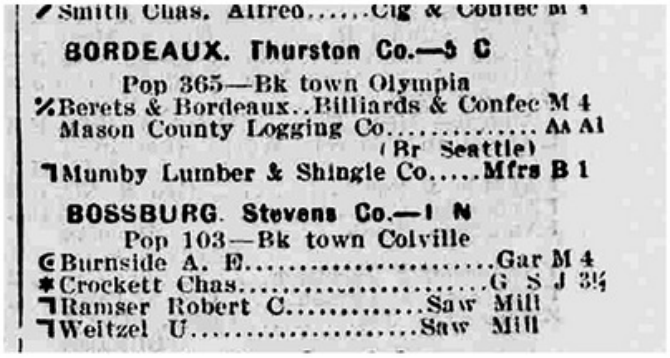
I was close to calling it a good—though unsuccessful—attempt when I finally struck gold. Buried deep in a 1922 Dun & Bradstreet Reference Book, I found exactly what I had been searching for. There it was, plainly listed:

"Berets & Bordeaux — Billiards and Confectionery" Listed under Bordeaux, Thurston County, Washington.

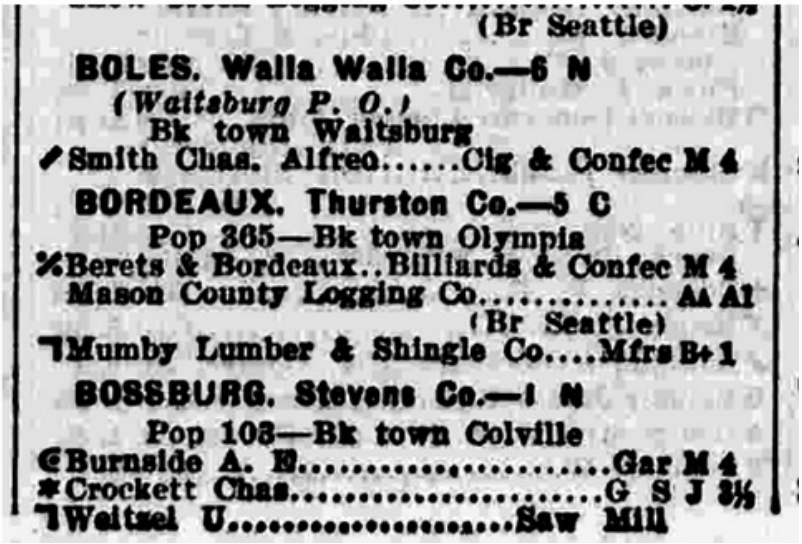
At last, I had my answer. This was a Bordeaux token, not an Olympia token, contrary to the initial assumption made by IdahoTokens on TokenCatalog.

As for the "Bordeaux" named on the token, the most reasonable conclusion is that it refers to either Thomas Bordeaux or his brother Joseph Bordeaux, the founders of the town itself and the men for whom Bordeaux, Washington was named.

Berets & Bordeaux - Billiards & Confectionery
Listed in the town of Bordeaux
Dun and Bradstreet Reference Book:
July/Sept, 1922; Vol. 217/218, part 3 & 1


Smith Chas. Alfred.....Cig & Confec
BORDEAUX. Thurston Co.—5 C
Pop 365—Bk town Olympia
%Berets & Bordeaux..Billiards & Confec M 4
Mason County Logging Co..... Aa A1
(Br Seattle)
Mumby Lumber & Shingle Co.....Mfrs B 1
BOSSBURG. Stevens Co.—1 N
Pop 103—Bk town Colville
Burnside A. E.....Gar M 4
*Crockett Chas.....G S J 3½
Ramser Robert C.....Saw Mill
Weitzel U.....Saw Mill

Berets & Bordeaux - Billiards & Confectionery
Listed in the town of Bordeaux
Dun and Bradstreet Reference Book:
September, 1922; Vol. 218, part 3


(Br Seattle)
BOLES. Walla Walla Co.—6 N
(Waitsburg P. O.)
Bk town Waitsburg
Smith Chas. Alfred.....Cig & Confec M 4
BORDEAUX. Thurston Co.—5 C
Pop 365—Bk town Olympia
%Berets & Bordeaux..Billiards & Confec M 4
Mason County Logging Co..... Aa A1
(Br Seattle)
Mumby Lumber & Shingle Co....Mfrs B+1
BOSSBURG. Stevens Co.—1 N
Pop 103—Bk town Colville
Burnside A. E.....Gar M 4
*Crockett Chas.....G S J 3½
Weitzel U.....Saw Mill

It was satisfying to finally have a clear answer and put my curiosity about the Berets & Bordeaux token to rest. What surprised me even more was realizing that I already owned several tokens that lined up perfectly with the timeline of Paul Berets, The Oxford, and its later incarnation as The Spar. It felt like the pieces of a much larger story had been sitting in my collection all along— They just needed to be pieced together.

Chasing a Ghost Trade Token Through Time

Continued

The Berets & Bordeaux token that started it all TC-705177

Bordeaux Pool Hall token with toothed border TC-21826

Bordeaux Pool Hall token with beaded border TC-171107

The Oxford - with George Taylor who was mentioned in an article above. TC-27565

Rogers & Taylor Oxford Token - Good for 6 ¼ cents. 4 of these would be worth .25 cents (two bits) TC-27533

The Oxford eventually became The Spar which would have a couple owners until it was purchased by McMenamin's as it stands today. TC-27561

And that is the story of the ghost trade token known as Berets & Bordeaux. After lots of digging, dead ends, and one cold Christmas-day token exchange, the mystery finally came together.
If you have any Olympia or Thurston County trade tokens you're thinking about selling, I'd love to take a look at them. You never know what stories might be hiding behind the next one.

Olympia Coin Club Annual Coin Show
January 31st

Kevin Charboneau
Bourse Chair

Olympia Coin Club to Host 2026 Coin Show

Mark your calendars! The Olympia Coin Club is proud to sponsor its annual Coin Show on Saturday, January 31, 2026, at the Expo Hall, Thurston County Fairgrounds (3054 Carpenter Road SE, Lacey, WA). Admission is free, and parking is plentiful.

Show Schedule:
Vendor setup begins at 8:00 AM
Doors open to the public at 10:00 AM
Tear down starts at 4:00 PM
Venue closes promptly at 5:00 PM

We're expecting 25–30 vendors across 35 tables, offering a wide range of coins, collectibles, and numismatic treasures. Tables on the Bourse floor are available for $110 each.
Contact Kevin Charboneau at kcharboneau58@comcast.net to reserve yours.

Hourly door prizes will be drawn throughout the day, featuring commemorative items from the U.S. Mint. Tickets are just $1, and you must be present to win.

At 4:00 PM, we'll hold a raffle for a one-tenth ounce gold coin and several American Silver Eagles. Tickets are $1 each and available at the door — no need to be present to win.

Volunteers Needed! We're looking for help with:
Front door greeter & Ticket sales
Setup at 8:00 AM
Tear down at 4:00 PM

Due to venue costs, table setup will begin as vendors arrive, so extra hands are especially appreciated.

Table Logistics: We'll be renting additional tables, which must be picked up Friday and returned Monday. Last year, we parked a U-Haul at the venue. If anyone can store tables over the weekend, it would save the club about $100 — please reach out if you can assist.
Let's make this year's show a success — we look forward to seeing you there!

Recently Sold on eBay

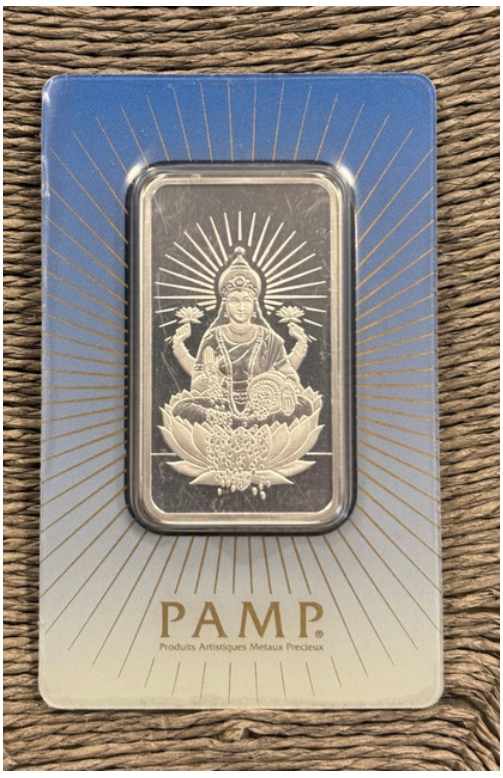
2020 AMERICAN SILVER EAGLE BULLION COIN WITH U.S. MINT CASE
Sold $79 - Dec. 31st

1988 American Eagle Silver 1 oz Brilliant Uncirculated PCGS MS69
Sold $125 - Jan. 26

2024 1 oz American Silver Eagle Coin BU (Monster Box)
Sold $20,505 - Dec. 29th

500-Coin $1 American Silver Eagle Coin 1 oz BU SEALED Monster Box - Random Year
Sold $133,500 - Jan. 25th

PAMP Suisse 1 oz Silver Bar 999.0 Fine Hindu Goddess Design
Sold $75.00 - Jan 2nd



ONE 1oz .999 PAMP Suisse Fine Silver Bar | Hindu Goddess Lakshmi | Assayer Card
Sold $195.00 - Jan. 22nd

2026-2026 Elected Officers

President	Oliver Brock
Vice President	Jay DeBoer
Treasurer	
Secretary	Richard Green

Board Members

Position 1	Todd Hughes
Position 2	Jordan Kennedy
Position 3	Dale Gerard
Position 4	Ken Fialkowski

Support Officers

Bourse Chair & Auctioneer	Kevin Charboneau
Auction Recorder	Kristi Gerard
Auction Videographer	Rudy Kennedy
Club Baker	Mike Zagorin

Appointed Positions

Newsletter Editor	Jay DeBoer

Regular Monthly Meeting

Regular monthly meetings are held at:
Virgil S. Clarkson Senior Center
(next to the Lacey Community Center)
6757 Pacific Ave SE
Lacey, WA 98503
7:00PM on the first Thursday of the month.
Doors open at 6:00PM
No July meeting - August is the Club Picnic
December is the Club Holiday Party

Board Meeting

Board Meetings are held on the 4th Thursday of odd numbered months at 6:00PM .
River's Edge Restaurant
4611 Tumwater Valley Dr SE
Tumwater, WA 98501
Board meetings are open to everyone

Olympia Coin Club

Established January 1958 - Olympia, Washington

Membership

Membership runs from January 1st through December 31st.
Annual-dues are $15 for Regular and Family memberships
Junior membership (under 18) is $3

Our Commitment to Numismatics

- **Promote numismatics** – Foster a deep appreciation for coins, currency, and related collectibles, encouraging study, preservation, and historical exploration.
- **Cultivate fellowship among numismatists** – Build a welcoming community where collectors can connect, share knowledge, and enjoy mutual interests.
- **Encourage and assist collectors** – Support collectors at all levels by providing resources, guidance, and opportunities to expand their collections.
- **Provide an opportunity to buy, sell, or trade coins** – Create a marketplace where enthusiasts can engage in fair and informed transactions.
- **Engage and inspire young numismatists** – Spark interest in coin collecting among younger generations through mentorship, educational programs, and hands-on activities, ensuring the future of the hobby.

Past Issues of the OCC Newsletter can be obtained from the Olympia Coin Club Facebook Group

The Olympia Coin Club Newsletter is published monthly.

Classifieds

Classified ads are free for members with active, paid-up memberships.

Buying | Selling | Wanted | Sponsors | Community Listings

Free Classified Ads for members: All OCC members get a free classified ad in the newsletter. Post your Wanted / Selling / Services etc. If you have a business card for your business or hobby that can be posted also.

WANTED: Olympia Trade Tokens, Hobo Nickels, Error Coins. **SELLING**: Hobo Nickels, Trade Tokens, Currency, Error notes and coins.
Jay DeBoer - JayHobo.com

Leave a Legacy of Numismatic Passion
Consider including the Olympia Coin Club in your estate plans. Whether it's coins, tokens, supplies, or a monetary donation, your gift can help preserve our shared love of history and collecting for future generations. A legacy donation ensures your passion lives on — inspiring, educating, and connecting fellow enthusiasts for years to come. To learn more about how you can make a lasting impact, speak with a club officer.

Auction Donations: Have duplicate coins, older currency, or even treasured pieces you'd like to see make a difference? Enter them in the club auction marked “For the Club” — all proceeds go toward strengthening Olympia Coin Club programs and events. Every donation, big or small, helps build a richer future for our community.

Classifieds

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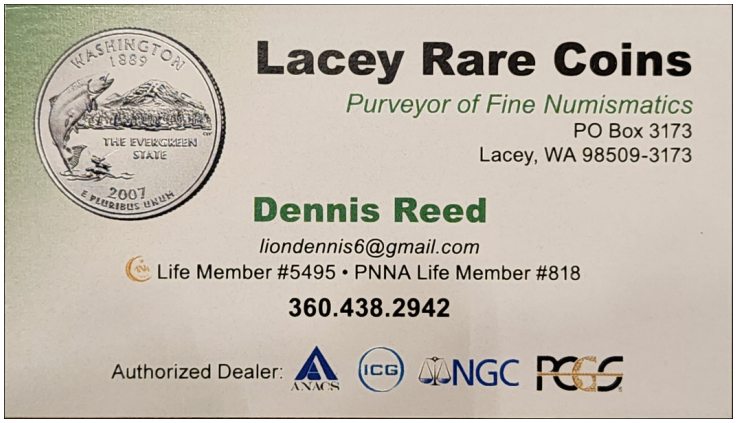

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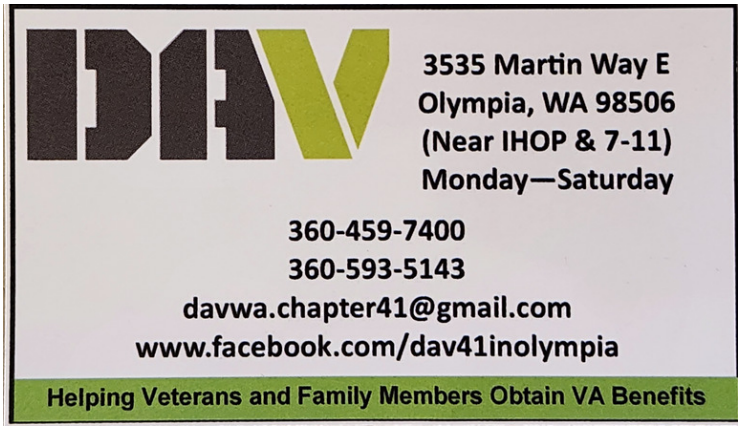
Kristi Gerard
Group Leader - Mossyrock Wa
Quilts of Valor®Foundation
Mossyrock, Wa
360-669-9569
kristiegerard63@gmail.com



HoboWerks.com/keys
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Homes • Offices • Padlocks • More
Keycutting available at the coin meeting upon appointment.
Jay
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